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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BU
SUBJECT: FY 1977 TRADE THEMES FOR TRADE PROMOTION

REF: STATE 061363

1. FOLLOWING LIST OF THEMES IS BASED ON AREAS OF MAJOR EMPHASIS IN BCP GUIDELINES, "THEMES" AND KEY SPEECHES OF 11TH CONGRESS. GOB NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL NOT PASS SEVENTH FYP UNTIL OCTOBER, BUT LEGISLATION WILL ONLY IMPLEMENT GUIDELINES.

2. (A) CHEMICALS/PETROCHEMICALS. GOB PLANS TO INVEST SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF FYP INVESTMENT FUNDS IN THESE AREAS. TOTAL OUTPUT OF THESE INDUSTRIES IS TO INCREASE BY 180 PERCENT OVER 1971-75 PERIOD. OIL EXPLORATION OFF BLACK SEACOAST IS ALSO TO EXPAND SUBSTJVNSALLY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. GOB HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN US PARTICIPATION IN THESE AREAJYUHYR FRTPVB) CELLULOSE AND PAPER. GUIDELINES CALL FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION OF SPECIAL AND HIGH QUALITY PAPER TYPES AND INCREASED PCMGSOFPKN FROM LOCAL RESOURCES. TOTAL PAPER PRODUCTION BY 1980 IS TO BE 370-400 THOUSAND TONS, AN INCREASE OF 30-40 PER CENT OVER 1975 OUTPUT. IN ADDITION GUIDELINES CALL FOR 40 PERCENT OF RAW MATERIALS TO COME FROM RECYCLED PAPER BY 1980.

(C) INDUSTRIAL PROCESS CONTROL, MEASUREMENTS AND QUALITY CONTROL. MAJOR EMPHASIS OF 7TH FYP IS MODERNIZATION AND
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IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY. PLANS CALL FOR RAPID INTRODUCTION OF

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ASSEMBLY LINE AND AUTOMATED PRODUCTION WHERE POSSIBLE, MAKING THIS A LIKELY AREA FOR TECHNOLOGY LICENSING AND POSSIBLY EQUIPMENT SALES.

(D) FOOD INDUSTRY -- PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING. ALONG WITH LARGE PLANNED INCREASES IN PRODUCTION, GUIDELINES CALL FOR IMPROVED PROCESSING, PACKAGING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS. AG. PRODUCTS STILL COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF BULGARIA'S EXPORTS, AND ARE A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF HARD CURRENCY EARNINGS.

(E) ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION. THIS BROAD CATEGORY INCLUDES RECYCLING, POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION. SPENDING DURING 1976 ALONE FOR PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTEDLY WILL BE 165 MILLION LEVA. MAJOR COMPLEXES SINGLED OUT FOR POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS INCLUDE KREMIKOVTSI IRON AND STEEL WORKS, DEVNYA CHEMICAL COMPLEX, BOURGAS PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX, AND OTHERS.

(F) MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION. BULGARIA HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-FERROUS MINERALS WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING. IN ADDITION TO OIL EXPLORATION, GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS FOR DISCOVERY OF OTHER ORES AND MINERALS ARE PLANNED. GOB HAS ALREADY MADE INQUIRIES WITH U.S. FIRMS ON VARIOUS TYPES OF MINING EQUIPMENT.

(G) METALLURGY. MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN THIS FIELD WILL BE FOR ENLARGEMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF KREMIKOVTSI AND LENIN COMPLEXES TO A CAPACITY OF 7.7 MILLION TONS OF IRON AND STEEL BY 1980. INTRODUCTION OF OXYGEN PROCESSING AND CONTINUOUS ROLLING, AS WELL AS INCREASED RECYCLING OF SCRAP ARE PLANNED. PLANNING FOR A THIRD METALLURGICAL COMPLEX IS TO BE COMPLETED AND CONSTRUCTION IS TO BE STARTED BY 1980.

(H) LIVESTOCK BREEDING AND FODDER PRODUCTION. GOB HAS ALREADY SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THEIR HERDS. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN BOTH BREEDING TECHNIQUES AND BREEDING STOCK. FORAGE CROPS AND THEIR PROCESSING ARE ACKNOWLEDGED AREAS WHERE PROBLEMS EXIST AND SPECIAL EFFORT IS PLANNED. MAJOR PROJECTS IN HIGH PROTEIN LIVESTOCK FEEDS
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ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY.

(I) ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND INSTRUMENTS. ELECTRONICS PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO DOUBLE BY 1980. NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN INTEGRATED CIRCUITS AND SEMI-CONDUCTOR PRODUCTION ARE HIGH ON THE GOB SHOPPING LIST FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. BULGARIANS HAVE MADE PURCHASES FROM U.S. FIRMS AND SHOW CONTINUED INTEREST IN FURTHER PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. EXPORT CONTROLS

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POSE SERIOUS OBSTACLE IN THIS FIELD, HOWEVER.

(J) FIBERS AND TEXTILES. PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC FIBERS
IS TO INCREASE TO 100-115 THOUSAND TONS AND THESE FIBERS WILL
COMPRISE 55 PERCENT OF TEXTILE RAW MATERIALS BY 1980. LARGE
INCREASES IN BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF CLOTH AND KNIT WEAR ARE
TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE END OF 7TH FYP.
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